

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 21, 2011
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 296
AUTHOR: N. Skinner

BILL SUMMARY: Building Standards: Cool Pavement

This bill would establish the Cool Pavements Research and Implementation Act and require the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), by January 1, 2014, to develop a Cool Pavements Handbook containing testing protocols, specifications, and best practices for cool pavements. Additionally, this bill would require Caltrans to implement one or more cool pavement pilot projects, with the goal of completing construction by January 1, 2015, and completing an analysis of the pilot projects no later than January 1, 2018.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Caltrans indicates that the development of a Cool Pavements Handbook could cost approximately \$2 million and require 5 to 6 positions worth of effort. We assume that any proposal for additional resources would be considered and evaluated as part of the annual budget development process.

Additionally, this bill would require Caltrans to complete one or more cool pavement pilot projects by January 1, 2015, at an undetermined cost.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it would result in additional costs to the state, both for completion of the handbook and for actual construction costs associated with the cool pavement pilot projects. Additionally, Finance notes the following:

- This bill may be premature. According to Caltrans, while information could be compiled from a variety of sources to create a Cool Pavements Handbook, it is likely to have little practical benefit until the environmental benefits of using different materials are understood in order to complete a cost-benefit analysis of the appropriateness of implementing cool pavement strategies for a particular project. Developing the information necessary to complete this level of analysis is outside the scope of Caltrans' technical expertise. The development of a handbook may be more appropriate after a variety of cool pavement projects have been implemented and evaluated and cool pavement research has progressed.
- The use of limited State Highway Account resources to complete more expensive cool pavement projects reduces the amount of funding that can be used for pavement maintenance and rehabilitation, which is already underfunded.
- According to the author's office, while there is demand at the local level for "cool" public infrastructure, most cities lack the resources and expertise to develop demonstration projects to quantify the economic and other public benefits. Conversely, Caltrans has an existing research and development program and develops a construction manual, which is widely used by public works departments throughout the state. Therefore, this bill tasks Caltrans with developing a Cool Pavements Handbook intended to encourage local cool community initiatives.

Analyst/Principal (0751) M. Tollefson	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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AUTHOR

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The author's office indicates that impervious pavements, which represent the largest percentage of a community's land cover, increase temperatures in urban areas by absorbing, storing, and radiating heat energy from the sun. These elevated temperatures increase health and air quality problems through the production of smog, drive electricity demand, and reduce water quality by enhancing polluted storm-water runoff. Cool pavements minimize these impacts. The author's office indicates that there is no single document that compiles existing knowledge on what constitutes cool pavements and how they are best deployed. This bill intends to have Caltrans compile this data into a Cool Pavements Handbook.

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department		LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue		CO	PROP						Fund	
Type		RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	Code
2660/Caltrans		SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary				-----	0042
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0042	Highway Account, State, STF									